

City of Seattle

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

(Please note that text shown in underlines and strikethroughs represents staff comments/edits by Gordon Clowers upon the checklist submitted by the applicant, Mike Podowski).

A. BACKGROUND:

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

On-Premises Wall Sign Amendments

2. Name of Applicant:

City of Seattle

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

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206-386-1988

4. Date checklist prepared:

April 3, 2013

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Seattle, Department of Planning and Development

6. Proposed timing or schedule (include phasing if applicable):

The amendments are anticipated to be considered by the City Council in summer 2013. Council review will include a public hearing.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activities related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain:

None known. However, the Land Use Code is regularly updated.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:

Information in this checklist, the proposed Ordinance, and Director's Report.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain:

It is likely that there are pending applications for signs in applicable areas that are generally the subject of the proposed amendments.

10. List any governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known:

The proposed amendments will require adoption by the City Council.

11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site.

The proposal would amend the Land Use Code to:

- Provide a 287-square foot area limit for on-premises wall signs in several zones including the commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones;
- Clarify definitions of wall signs and on-premises signs; and
- Increase penalties for violations of certain Land Use Code sign provisions addressed by the proposed legislation.

The following table includes a brief description of the amendments by Seattle Municipal Code Section in the order presented in the legislation:

Code Section	Description of proposed change
23.55.030 Signs in NC3, C1, C2 and SM zones	Provides an area limit of 287 square feet for on-premises wall signs in the Neighborhood Commercial 3, Commercial 1 and 2, and Seattle Mixed zones.
23.55.034 Signs in downtown zones	Applies the same standards as proposed for 23.55.030 to wall signs in downtown zones while maintaining existing exceptions.
23.55.036 Signs in IB, IC, IG1 and IG2 zones.	Applies the same standards as proposed for 23.55.030 to wall signs located in industrial zones while maintaining existing exceptions.
23.84A.036 “S” (definitions for terms beginning w/ “s”)	<p>Clarifies the definition of wall sign to include additional types of signs, including those projected onto a wall or suspended from a roof (when approximately parallel to the wall plane).</p> <p>Adds the following to the definition of on-premises sign:</p> <p>For purposes of this definition, “business transacted, principal services rendered, goods sold or produced on the premises” does not include: (a) the sale or donation of a gift card, gift certificate, coupon, or other document that can be exchanged in part or whole for an item or good that is not directly sold, produced, or service rendered where the gift card, gift certificate, coupon, or other document is sold or donated; or (b) access by phone, computer, or any other device to allow a person to obtain an item or good that is not directly sold, produced, or service rendered where the access by phone, computer, or other device is offered.</p>
23.90.018 Civil Enforcement Proceedings and Penalties	<p>Establishes a civil penalty of up to \$1,500 per day for each violation of the provisions of subsections 23.55.030.E.3.a.3, 23.55.030.E.3.b, 23.55.034.D.2.a, 23.55.036.D.3.b or, 23.84A.036 for using an on-premises sign inconsistently with the definition of on-premises sign, from the date the violation begins until compliance is achieved.</p> <p>Establishes a subfund whereby such collected penalties will be directed to the Department of Planning and Development’s Operations Division to be used for additional enforcement.</p>

This proposal would be in keeping with the City's Sign Code to allow business establishments an opportunity to identify their business, service or good through use of an on-premises sign; it would limit the maximum size of such wall signs to 287 square feet in area. The wall sign area limit is prospective only and does not apply to wall signs that DPD already permitted.

The proposed legislation does not increase demands on transportation, it has no impact to street access, public transit, parking spaces, demand for new roads or improvements to existing roads and no vehicle trips would be generated.

The wall sign standards will not increase and may even reduce aesthetic impacts due to wall signage as compared to the aesthetic effects of what currently exists, because the proposed legislation establishes a maximum area limit on wall sign size that is smaller than what is currently allowed. This ordinance is therefore consistent with the Sign Code because it promotes the legitimate public purposes of identifying and promoting businesses while also protecting public health and safety by potentially reducing aesthetic impacts/visual blight by limiting the size of new on-premises wall signs.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS:

1. Earth

a. General description of site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

All types of terrain are present in Seattle, including in the commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones (includes flat, rolling, hilly and steep slopes).

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

This is a non-project proposal. Land area in Seattle, including in commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones is generally flat, but some areas contain slopes exceeding 40% and many established commercial, industrial and downtown areas are located on sloping hillsides, including the slopes of Capitol Hill, Beacon Hill, and Queen Anne.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

This is a non-project proposal. Almost all soils found in Seattle are also found in applicably zoned areas, including silt, sand, gravel, clay, peat, till, hardpan, sandstone, debris, and slag.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

This is a non-project proposal. There are indications of unstable soils in some areas.

e. Describe the purpose, type and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The amount of filling or grading depends upon existing site conditions and usually is part of the site preparation.

- f. **Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction or use? If so, generally describe.**

The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase development pressures in any area, or change the amount of clearing that would occur on any site. Potential impacts of specific development projects will be addressed through existing regulations.

- g. **About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The amount of impervious surface coverage depends upon existing site conditions and site design of a project-specific action. The proposal would not result in an appreciably greater amount of impervious covering, if any, compared to what existing zoning provisions allow.

- h. **Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion or other impacts to the earth, if any:**

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The amount of erosion depends upon existing site conditions and site design of a project-specific action. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of measures to reduce or control erosion or other impacts to the earth at this stage.

There are established policies and regulations to limit the potential of erosion and landslide impact of specific development proposals. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on surface water resources are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

2. **Air**

- a. **What type of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial, wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity.

The indirect effects of this non-project proposal to air resources, including green house gases, are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions

- b. **Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**

This is a non-project proposal. Off-site sources of emissions or odors could exist in the vicinity of individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:**

There are established policies and regulations to minimize or prevent adverse air quality impacts of specific development projects.

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

- 1) **Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

There are several water bodies in and around the city, including in or near commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones, such as Elliott Bay, Lake Union, Green Lake and Lake Washington.

- 2) **Will the project require any work over, in or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

No. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve known construction or development activity, although future on-premises signage potentially could occur in such areas.

- 3) **Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The proposed legislation is unlikely to affect the amount of fill or dredge required for site preparation in the city, including applicably zoned areas as compared to that allowed under existing regulations.

- 4) **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Development regulation changes in the proposed legislation are unlikely to affect surface water withdrawal or diversion in the city, including applicably zoned areas, as compared to that allowed under existing regulations.

- 5) **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

No. This is a non-project proposal without a particular site and does not involve construction or development activity.

- 6) **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

No. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on surface water resources are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

b. Ground Water:

- 1) **Will groundwater be withdrawn or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Development regulation changes in the proposed legislation are unlikely to result in the withdrawal of or discharge to ground water as part of the site development for an individual project.

- 2) **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground for septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system,**

the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None anticipated. The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The city, including applicably zoned areas, is served by sewer mains.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

None anticipated. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual projects will be subject to the City's stormwater and drainage requirements if applicable. The amount of runoff and method of collection depends upon existing site conditions and site design of a project-specific action.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal related to water runoff/discharges to water are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal may be subject to the City's stormwater and drainage requirements.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground or runoff water impacts, if any:

None proposed. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. There are established policies and regulations to protect wetlands, riparian corridors, lakes, drainage basins, wildlife habitats, slopes, and other property from the adverse drainage impacts of specific development projects. New construction will need to comply with the City's stormwater, grading and drainage provisions as they are applicable and provide for mitigation of erosion, if required.

4. Plants

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

☒ Deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

☒ Evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

☒ Shrubs

☒ Grass

☐ Pasture

☐ Crop or grain

☐ Wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other

☐ Water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

☒ Other types of vegetation

Most vegetation types listed above could be found in the city, including in applicably zoned areas in the city.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

None anticipated. The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity.

The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on vegetation are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site:

None likely. This is a non-project proposal without a particular site. The proposed legislation is unlikely to have a different affect on threatened or endangered plant species than existing regulations.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

None proposed. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Development standards and design guidelines are in place to support the use of native plants and other vegetation on specific development projects where appropriate. Existing zoning provisions are expected to provide mitigation for water quality and run-off impacts as well as promote aesthetically pleasing landscaping of new development sites when applicable.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

This is a non-project proposal without a particular site. Seattle and its applicably zoned areas are developed and urban in character. Birds observed in Seattle include hawk, eagle, songbirds, crow, starling, seagulls, pigeons, heron, Canada Geese, and other birds. Mammals observed include squirrels, raccoons, the opossum, other small rodents, and household pets.

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of specific animals present at this stage.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

This is a non-project proposal without a particular site. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual development sites have not been determined. Some future installation of wall signs may be near areas, such as Lake Washington, where endangered species are known to be found, including Chinook salmon, Bull trout. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on animals are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The city and applicably zoned areas are developed and urban in character.

Seattle is within the “Pacific Flyway,” one of the four principal north-south migration routes for birds (including Canadian Geese, heron, and other birds) in North America. The Pacific Flyway encompasses the entire Puget Sound Basin. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot currently be evaluated in terms of impacts on migration routes.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

None proposed. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Policies are in place to encourage the maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat for specific development projects where appropriate.

Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of measures to preserve or enhance wildlife at this stage.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing etc.**

The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The area is served by electric and natural gas utilities. New development is unlikely to use these sources of energy, except for possible lighting of some signs. Future development projects that may use the proposed legislation are unlikely to require different types of energy sources under the new provisions than under the existing provisions.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**

The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Wall signs erected under the proposed legislation are not expected to have any impact on solar access on neighboring parcels.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:**

None proposed. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of energy conservation features or measures to reduce or control energy impacts at this stage. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on energy resources are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.**

None anticipated. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Changes in the proposed legislation are unlikely to result in environmental health hazards as part of the site development for an individual project.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The degree of potential responsibility for fire protection related to wall signage in applicable zones is not adversely changed by the proposed legislation and further, existing estimated growth is within the range covered by the City of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan for Fire Protection and Police Services. In general, emergency service providers including the Fire and Police Departments will review the effects of increased development and propose enhanced services as necessary as part of their planning for future service needs. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to result in an increased need for emergency services. See discussion in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

None proposed. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to result in an increase of environmental health hazards. See discussion in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Ambient noise typical of urban areas exists in the city and its commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase noise impacts.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Existing noise standards and regulations in the Land Use Code and noise ordinance would be retained and would not change as part of this proposal.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

This is a non-project proposal without a particular site. There is not likely to be a substantive change in land uses as a result of the proposed changes to the Land Use Code. This legislation applies to commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones but does not affect current or future uses in these zones.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

This is a non-project proposal. Agricultural use is not prevalent in the city.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

This is a non-project proposal without a particular site. The city, including within commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones, contains a wide range and extensive number of structures and is urban in nature.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No, this is a non-project proposal that will not result in demolition of any structures. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase the rate of demolition. As redevelopment occurs in the city, including applicably zoned areas, some less intensive uses, such as vacant or underused land, may be replaced with commercial, industrial and downtown uses, just as is expected under the current provisions.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

There is no project site as this is a non-project proposal. The legislation applies to commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones; these zones allow for a range of land uses and types of development.

f. What is current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The Comprehensive Plan designation of the areas affected by the proposed amendments is urban, mixed-use, commercial, industrial and/or downtown in nature.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not applicable. A variety of shoreline designations are found in the city, including some that add to or amend the commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones. Shoreline areas are subject to the shoreline master program.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

~~Not applicable~~ None identified in relation to this non-project proposal. ~~Some areas within the city, including commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones, may be classified as environmentally sensitive. See also the City's critical areas maps.~~

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None. This is a non-project proposal.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None – there is no project. Also, the indirect effects of this non-project proposal will not increase the extent or rate at which residences or businesses are potentially displaced.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None proposed. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase the extent or rate at which residences or businesses are displaced.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

None proposed. The proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.

None. This is a non-project proposal. The proposed legislation does not change any Seattle Municipal Code provision related to housing units.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to result in any significant change to the rate of demolition of housing in the city, including in commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None proposed.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

This is a non-project proposal and does not include any proposed structure, building or development activity. No increases to visual impacts/aesthetics are expected and, in fact, the proposed legislation may result in reduced aesthetic impacts from what is currently allowed by setting an area limit for all new on-premises wall signs at 287 square feet where no area limit currently exists. Wall signs may be made of vinyl, canvas, cloth or similar non-rigid material, or paint, or of rigid material.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

This is a non-project proposal without a particular site. The proposal would be expected to reduce overall levels of view alteration or obstruction at any given site by controlling wall signage to a given size limit because no size limit exists under the current regulations. This would reduce the potential maximum amount of visual blight effects that could occur if wall signs were erected at any given site in the affected zones.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None proposed.

11. Light and Glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

This is a non-project proposal. Existing light and glare standards are not proposed to be changed.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No. This is a non-project proposal. Given the adoption of a size limit for wall signs that may potentially be illuminated, the overall potential for light/glare impacts from a sign at any given site would be reduced under the proposed legislation.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None. This is a non-project proposal. Ambient light and glare typical of urban areas exist in Seattle.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None proposed. This is a non-project proposal. Established policies and regulations to minimize or prevent hazards and other adverse light and glare impacts of specific development projects will not change.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

There are parks and other designated and informal recreational opportunities within the city, including applicably zoned areas.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No. This is a non-project proposal which is not likely to change the potential displacement of any existing recreational uses.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None proposed. This is a non-project proposal that is not anticipated to have significant impacts on recreation.

13. Historical and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

This is a non-project proposal without a particular site.

- b. **Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site?**

This is a non-project proposal without a particular site.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**

None proposed. There are established policies and regulations to maintain and preserve significant historic sites and structures and to provide the opportunity for analysis of archaeological sites during review of specific development projects.

14. Transportation

- a. **Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe the proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

This is a non-project proposal without a particular site. The city, including applicably zoned areas, is served by the entire street system, including arterials with access to highways.

- b. **Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

This is a non-project proposal without a particular site. Generally, Seattle and its commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones are well served by public transit in terms of both frequency of transit stops and headways.

- c. **How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

None. The general direct and indirect effects of this non-project proposal are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

- d. **Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

No. This proposal is a non-project action and is not expected to require new roads or streets. New development on streets not meeting City standards will be responsible for improvements pursuant to the Land Use and Street Use Codes, the Street Improvements Manual and other applicable requirements.

- e. **Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

No. This proposal is a non-project action. Indirect effects of the proposal are not likely to affect water, rail or air transportation. Certain commercial, industrial and downtown zones are in the vicinity of Link Light Rail.

- f. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.**

None. The direct and indirect effects of this non-project proposal on vehicle trips are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

- g. **Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

None proposed.

15. Public Services

- a. **Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

No, the proposed amendments are not expected to change potential demand for public services. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on public services are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**

None proposed.

16. Utilities

- a. Utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.**

Seattle's commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones are extensively developed and are served by all the utilities listed above except for septic systems. Other utilities available include cable television and internet access.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed:**

The proposed amendments are not expected to substantively change potential demand for utility services or the specific services to be provided, which are decided on a site-by-site basis. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on utilities are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

C. SIGNATURE

Signature provided following section D below.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering the questions, be aware of the extent of the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

The proposed amendments to the Seattle Municipal Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city, including in commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones. As a result, the potential for increased impacts to water, air (including green house gas emissions), or noise or additional release of hazardous substances due to differences in signage is expected to be minor or non-existent. No adverse effects in relation to these environmental elements are identified for this sign-related regulatory proposal.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

None proposed. As discussed above, the potential for indirect environmental impacts of this non-project proposal are expected to be minor or non-existent. The existing regulatory framework, i.e., the Land Use Code, the Building Code, The Shoreline Master Program, Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and the City's SEPA ordinance, for non-exempt actions, will address impacts during review of development proposals on a project-specific basis as applicable.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life?

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city, including in the applicably zoned areas. As a result, the potential for increased environmental impacts to plants, animals, fish or marine life is minor to non-existent.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

None proposed.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city, including in the applicably zoned areas. As a result, the potential for increased depletion of energy and natural resources is minimal. Some energy consumption would occur if existing signs are removed.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

None are warranted.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened, or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Future installation of wall signs on specific parcels would likely have little potential for effects on historic sites and districts that are located in the city, potentially including in commercial, Seattle Mixed, industrial and downtown zones. Future development has a low potential to affect environmentally sensitive areas, parks, wetlands, or floodplains, since these types of areas are limited within the highly developed commercial, industrial and downtown areas of the City.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

None are warranted.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land and shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Code would be unlikely to result in any substantive or negative changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city, including in the applicably zoned areas. The objective of the legislation is to clarify and further goals of the Seattle Sign Code by continuing to allow a business the ability to identify the goods or services sold on site while maintaining or even reducing aesthetic impact/visual blight by limiting the maximum size of on-premises wall signs to 287 square feet in area. The proposed amendment also clarifies that “business transacted, principal services rendered, goods sold or produced on the premises” does not include gift certificates or coupons or devices to access goods, products or services not offered onsite where the gift certificate, coupon or device is located. The proposed amendments may result in a handful of signs that no longer meet the definition of on-premises signs and must therefore be removed or face enforcement action. As a result, the proposal is not expected to generate significant adverse impacts such as incompatible land uses or inconsistencies with existing land use plans.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

None are warranted.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

None of the proposed amendments are expected to result in significant adverse impacts to traffic or transportation demands including vehicle trips generated, parking, public services, or utilities. Any net differences in electrical use to lighted signage are anticipated to be minimal.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demands are:

None are warranted.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

No conflicts are anticipated with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for protection of the environment.

SIGNATURE:

I, the undersigned, state that to the best of my knowledge the above information is true and complete. It is understood that the lead agency may withdraw any declaration of non-significance that it might issue in reliance upon this checklist should there be any willful misrepresentation or willful lack of full disclosure on my part.

(signature on file)
Mike Podowski

April 3, 2013
Date